



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

REGION NINE

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

980 Ninth Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814-2724

March 26, 1997

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Mr. James W. van Loben Sels, Director
CALTRANS, 1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500
for Jim Nicholas

Dear Mr. van Loben Sels.

SUBJECT: MCAG TIP AMENDMENTS 3, 4 AND 5

We have completed our review of Merced County Association's (MCAG) Amendment No. 3, 4, & 5 to its 1996/97 to 1998/99 federal transportation improvement program (FTIP) that was submitted with your letter dated February 28, 1997. As detailed in your letter, this amendment: (1) adds an Amendment No. 3 which is a State Highway Operation Protection Program (SHOPP) project to rehabilitate Route 99 in Merced County between Dutchman Creek and Pioneer Road, (2) adds an Amendment No. 4 which is a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality project to install traffic signals on Winton Way in the City of Atwater, and (3) adds an Amendment No. 4 which is a minor revision to adjust the reimbursement ratio of the City of Merced Bike Construction project along Black Rascal Creek.

This letter constitutes FHWA approval, and inclusion of the above Amendment Nos. 3, 4 & 5 into California's 1996/97 to 1998/99 FTIP.

We find that this amendment was developed based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process in accordance with 23 USC 134 and Section 5303 of the Federal Transit Act (49 USC 53). The project included in this amendment are exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be performed [40 CFR §93.134].

This finding has been coordinated with the regional offices of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding on single mode TIP amendments dated March 8, 1996.

Sincerely,

DEPT. PROGRAMMING

APR 02 1997

David H. Densmore
For:

David H. Densmore
Division Administrator